(a) whether Government are aware that cattle-based Integrated Farming System (IFS) is ideal for small and medium farmers;

(b) whether Government are also aware that it is not only eco-friendly but also economical for farmers to raise animals since animals help in efficient recycling of organic crop residues;

(c) how far it is a fact that the manure gas can be derived by using locally available cattle waste and other organic wastes;

(d) if so, whether Government are taking steps to promote IFS in the country for small and medium farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Cattle based integrated farming system is ideal for the small and medium landholders. The system is eco-friendly as well as economical to the farmers and helps in recycling of crop residues.

(c) Bio-gas is produced from cow dung and it is used as easily available fuel for cooking in rural areas.

(d) and (e) The Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration and Central Fodder Seed Poduction Farm of this Ministry are imparting training to State Government Officers and also to famers in organic farming to help promotion of integrated farming system.

Cultivation of vegetables

2583. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumption of vegetables is only 170 grams against an ideal requirement of 285 grams per day per capita in our country;

(b) how much agricultural land is used to grow vegetables and how much more land should be brought under cultivation for vegetables;

(c) whether it is also a fact that instead of 5 to 6 lakh hectares of land, only 1.90 lakh hectares of land is used for vegetable cultivation in Gujarat; and

(d) the steps taken to increase vegetable production in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The per capita availability of vegetables in the country is 190 grams per day against the ideal requirement of 280 grams per day.

(b) The area covered under vegetable cultivation in the country is 6.76 million hectares during 2004-05. No estimates have been made to bring more areas of land under vegetable cultivation in the country.

(c) No, Sir. Out of the net cultivable land of 97.23 lakh hectares, the estimated area under vegetable cultivation in Gujarat State is 3.80 lakh hectares.

(d) Following steps have been taken to increase vegetable production in Gujarat:—

(i) Promotion of high yielding hybrids of vegetables and use of better quality seeds of vegetables.

(ii) Upgradation of technical knowledge of high yielding varieties and adoption of innovative package of practices of vegetable crops among the farmers.

(iii) Adoption of Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management and Organic Farming in vegetables.

(iv) Promotion of vegetable cultivation in potential tribal areas.

Suicide in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh

†2584. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who had to commit suicide in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra owing to damage of crops, indebtedness and drought, etc. during the last three years particularly from April, 2006 to October, 2006;

(b) the details of the assistance provided by Government to the families of the deceased farmers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.